

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed subject matter relates to a method (independent claim 1), system (independent claim 11) and television apparatus (independent claim 12) for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs.

The method for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs in a television apparatus comprises steps of: electronically detecting a first user request (page 14, lines 28-32, and step 601 of FIG. 6); electronically providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for user spending limits with each entry being associated with a different-length time period, in response to the first user request (FIG. 8; page 15, lines 14-18; step 611 of FIG. 6); electronically receiving user selection of at least one of the entries and a spending limit for each selected entry (FIG. 8; page 15, lines 14-18; step 611 of FIG. 6); electronically determining if the spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for a longer time period if more than one of the entries is selected (page 15, lines 19-24; step 613 of FIG. 6); electronically providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for the longer time period (page 15, lines 23-24; step 615 of FIG. 6); electronically tracking a second user request to purchase a television program during the time period associated with each selected entry (page 15, lines 25-27; steps 617 and 625 of FIG. 6); and electronically notifying the user in response to the second user request, if purchasing the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry (FIG. 9; page 15, lines 27-29; step 621 of FIG. 6).

The system for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs comprises: means for providing a plurality of selectively actuatable entries for user spending limits with each entry being associated with a different-length time period, in response to a first user request (FIG. 8 and/or control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 14-18); means for receiving user selection of at least one of the entries and a spending limit for each selected entry (FIG. 8 and/or

control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 14-18); means for determining if the spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for a longer time period if more than one of the entries is selected, and for providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for the longer time period (control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 19-24); means for tracking a second user request to purchase a television program during the time period associated with each selected entry (control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 25-27); and means for notifying the user in response to the second user request, if purchasing the requested television program would exceed the spending limit during the time period for any selected entry (FIG. 9 and/or control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 27-29).

The television apparatus for controlling user spending of a user purchasing television programs comprises: a user interface for receiving a first user request (page 14, lines 28-32); means for providing a plurality of spending limit entries for a single user with each entry corresponding to a different length time period, in response to the first user request (FIG. 8 and/or control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 14-18); means for receiving user selection of at least one of the spending limit entries and a spending limit for each selected spending limit entry (FIG. 8 and/or control program element executed by CPU 1112 of FIG. 2, controller 115 of FIG. 3, and/or ARM microprocessor 315 of FIG. 4; page 14, lines 20-25; page 15, lines 14-18); means for determining if the spending limit for a shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for a longer time period if more than one of the spending limit entries is selected, and for providing a user warning if the spending limit for the shorter time period is greater than the spending limit for the longer time period (control program